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SOUTH MOLTON *Devon*
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
and Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1956.

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.),

Medical Officer of Health.

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M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.),

Medical Officer of Health.

113, East Street,

South Molton,

May, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the
South Molton Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual
Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration
of the Rural District Council for the year 1956.

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.)

Medical Officer of Health



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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
South Molton Rural District Council
for the year ending December 31st, 1956.

LIST OF STAFF

The Staff of the Public Health Department
consists of:

Part-time Officers:—

F. J. H. MARTIN,

M.R.C.S. (Eng), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Oxon.)

Medical Officer of Health.

Mrs. ELWORTHY, Clerk.

Whole-time Officer:—

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

A. J. C. NEX, M.A.P.H.I.,

Additional Public Health Inspector.

Miss M. LOCK, Clerk.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	117,432
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate) ...	8,920
Inhabited Houses	2,813
Rateable Value	£52,038
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£216

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	61	53	114
Illegitimate	3	1	4
			<hr/> 118
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population	13.22		<hr/>
	Males	Females	Total
STILL BIRTHS—Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
			<hr/> 2
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total (live & still) births	16.66		

	Males	Females	Total
DEATHS	48	56	104
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population	11.65		

The Table below shows the comparative figures for the South Molton Rural District and England and Wales.

The Local Birth and Death Rates are shown corrected by the Area Comparability Factors.

Birth Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years
South Molton R.D....	15.33	0.22	10.83	16.94	0
England and Wales ...	15.7	—	11.7	23.8	0

DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
						<hr/> 2

DEATH RATE per 1,000 Live Births 16.94

DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS.

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
						<hr/> 2

LOCAL DEATHS OVER 65 YEARS.

65—69	...	13	85—89	13
70—74	...	11	90—94	4
75—79	...	16	95 plus	2
80—84	...	15	Total	74

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

Puerperal Sepsis...	...	...	...	0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	...	...	0

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1956.

				Males	Females
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	...	...	0	0
Tuberculosis (Other)	...	...	...	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)	...	...	...	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm (Lung, Bronchus)	...	...	...	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm (Breast)	...	...	...	0	5
Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus)	...	...	...	0	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	4	4
Leukaemia, Aleumaemia	...	...	...	2	1

CAUSES OF DEATHS (cont.)

					Males	Females
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	0
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	7	7
Coronary Disease (Angina)	...	...	...	...	5	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	10	10
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	5	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	0	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	0	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	0	0
Congenital Malformations...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	3	10
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	2	0
All other Accidents	...	...	...	...	2	2
Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	0	0
					<hr/> 48	<hr/> 56

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN 1956

(in age groups excluding Tuberculosis)

Age years	Measles		Whooping Cough		Pneumonia		Polio		Dysentery	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1— 2	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2— 3	4	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
3— 4	6	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4— 5	7	7	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—10	29	30	4	5	0	0	0	1	0	0
10—15	18	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20—25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—30	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30—40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
63	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
68	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
82	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	<hr/> 71	<hr/> 58	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 0

Below is appended a Table showing the distribution of Infectious Diseases notified in 1956 (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Polio	Dysentery
Bishopsnympton ...	4	0	0	0	1
Burrington ...	1	0	0	0	0
Chittlehampton ...	6	2	0	0	0
Chulmleigh ...	18	0	0	0	0
East Anstey ...	8	0	2	0	0
Filleigh ...	3	4	0	0	0
Georgenympton ...	12	1	0	0	0
Kingsnympton ...	6	0	0	0	0
Knowstone ...	0	0	1	0	0
Mariansleigh ...	7	0	0	0	0
Meshaw ...	5	1	0	0	0
Molland ...	0	1	0	0	0
North Molton ...	3	2	0	0	0
Queensnympton ...	4	0	0	0	0
Raekenford ...	17	0	0	1	0
Romansleigh ...	2	0	0	0	0
Warkleigh ...	1	0	0	0	0
West Buckland ...	7	0	0	0	0
West Anstey ...	2	0	0	0	0
Witheridge ...	11	5	0	0	0
Worlington ...	12	0	1	0	0
	<hr/> 129	<hr/> 16	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 1

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1956.

	PULMONARY	
Age years	M	F
25	1	—

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.
HOSPITALS.**

1. Tuberculosis.

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough of Barnstaple, has 28 beds.

2. Maternity Cases.

There is a ward of 14 beds with a fully qualified staff at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, available for maternity cases of doubt and difficulty.

Three beds are also set aside for maternity cases in the South Molton and District Cottage Hospital.

The General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

3. Isolation of Infectious Diseases.

Cases are sent either to Whipton Hospital, near Exeter, or to the Kingsley Hospital, which is situated just outside the Borough of Bideford. The latter is of recent construction and well equipped in every way for the treatment of Infectious Diseases.

There are 20 beds available in cubicles for Infectious Cases.

4. Small Pox.

The Small Pox Hospital, to which cases of Small Pox will be sent, is at Upton Pine. Telephone to Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter 67158, and this is the same number for the ambulance.

5. General.

The South Molton and District Cottage Hospital, situated in the Borough of South Molton, serves this area. There are 9 beds for general and maternity cases. The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, also serves the area and provides Specialists' Services.

In South Molton there are also chronic sick patients at Beech House, but no further admissions are being made.

6. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

CHEST CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple. Below is a table giving days and times of attendance.

Tuesday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	} Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.	
Thursday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.	
Friday	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	} A.P. Refills.
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.	

V.D. CLINICS.—These are held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, in the Annexe. Times and days are as below for the sessions.

FEMALES—Monday 4 p.m. Thursday 4.30 p.m.
MALES—Monday 5.15 p.m. Thursday 5.45 p.m.

7. Professional Nursing in the Homes.

There are six District Nurses in the area who also act as Midwives.

8. Laboratory Facilities.

The main Laboratory is situated at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of water and milk are also carried out. The service is extremely valuable and is widely used by the medical practitioners.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75, Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area. There is a Blood Bank at this Laboratory.

9. Immunization Against Diphtheria.

During the year 92 children received Primary Injections and 138 received Reinforcing Injections.

10. Vaccination.

The following table shows the number of Vaccinations carried out in their age groups during the year :—

Under 1 year—26 ;	1-4 years—29 ;	5-14 years—2.
15 years and over—10.		

11. Ambulance Services.

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. Under the scheme an ambulance station has been established at South Molton. The districts served are South Molton Borough and South Molton Rural District. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available on application to the Hospital, by the doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when an ambulance is not necessary.

12. Acute Poliomyelitis.

There was one case during the year—Paralytic.

13. Food Poisoning.

No cases occurred during the year.

14. Home Help Services.

There are Home Helps operating in the South Molton Borough and Rural District and the scheme is run by the Devon County Council. During the year help was rendered in 22 cases as follows:-

Maternity 12 ;	Old Age 3 ;	Old Age (long term) 3 ;
Others (Sickness etc.) 4.		

Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor or District Nurse will be considered for a Home Help. The Home Helps do any work in the house normally done by the housewife.

I desire to thank Mr. Willey and the Public Health Inspectors for the help they have given me.

F. J. H. MARTIN.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR TO THE SOUTH MOLTON RURAL AREA.

For the Year ended 31st December, 1956.

8, EAST STREET,
SOUTH MOLTON.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report relating to work carried out during 1956.

During the year 2,283 visits and inspections were made including:—

PUBLIC HEALTH—

Byelaws	...	...	102
Camping Sites	...	...	3
Disinfections and Disinfestations (Rooms)			—
Drains inspected and tested	...		83
General	...	...	106
Nuisances	...	...	12
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...		45
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	...		194
Water Supplies	...	...	144
Water Samples	...	...	75
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS	...		56
FOOD AND DRUGS—General	...	...	35
Meat and Food Inspections			529
FACTORIES—With Power	...	...	10
Without Power	...	...	3
HOUSING—Slum Clearance	...	...	68
Council Houses in Course of Erection, Housing Sites and Council House Supervision, etc.	...	...	554
Improvement Grants	...	...	79
PETROLEUM REGULATIONS	...	...	14
INTERVIEWS—Owners, Builders, etc.	...		52
MISCELLANEOUS AND MEETINGS	...		119
			<hr/> 2,283 <hr/>

WATER.

PARISH	No. of Houses supplied from Public Mains	Estimated Population so served	No. of Houses supplied by Standpipes on Public Mains	Estimated Population so served
Bishopsnympton	91	310	3	11
Charles (Brayford)	32	112	—	—
Chulmleigh	258	902	—	—
Kingsnympton	64	220	1	3
North Molton	198	674	27	95
Rackenford	45	155	—	—
Witheridge	178	618	19	68
Chittlehampton	129	422	—	—
Chittlehamholt	41	143	—	—
Georgensnympton	24	82	—	—
Meshaw	12	41	—	—
Satterleigh	9	32	—	—
Romansleigh	14	47	—	—
East Worlington	26	89	—	—
Mariansleigh	21	72	—	—
Queensnympton	3	10	—	—
Burrington	43	153	—	—

60 Samples of Private Supplies were taken with results as shown.

	Chemical & Bacteriological	Bacteriological
Satisfactory	3	25
Unsatisfactory	—	32

15 Bacteriological Samples were taken of Public Supplies with the following results :—

Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
12	3

In the 35 cases where the water supply was unsatisfactory informal action was taken to have the matters remedied or an alternative source found.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Following a Ministry Enquiry, the Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare amended proposals for the Chulmleigh Sewerage Scheme. Plans were in course of preparation at the end of the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Regular visits were paid to the premises in which food is handled and sold and the standard of cleanliness was generally satisfactory.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are five licenced Slaughterhouses in the district at which regular killing and inspection takes place.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

It will be seen from the following Table that 100% meat inspection was carried out, involving 529 visits. It was necessary to condemn 1 ton 3 cwts. 52 lbs. of carcase meat and 1 ton 4 cwts. 7 lbs. of offal.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	726	10	20	2219	505	Nil
Number inspected	726	10	20	2219	505	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	1	15	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	166	5	Nil	32	2	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	22.86 %	50.00 %	5.00 %	2.11 %	0.39 %	N.A.
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	17	3	Nil	Nil	22	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.61 %	30.00 %	Nil %	Nil %	4.35 %	N.A.
Cysticercosis.						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Periodic inspections were made to other food premises and in no case was it necessary to take statutory action. The following was found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned.

FOOD SURRENDERED.

	lbs.	ozs.
Bacon	6	10
Corned Beef	30	4
Luncheon Meat	12	7
Minced Meat Loaf	—	12
	<hr/> 50	<hr/> 1

ICE CREAM.

Regular inspection of retail premises were made. The total number of premises registered at the end of the year was 14, all selling pre-packed ice-cream only.

DAIRIES.

The dairies within the district were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 AND 1948.

No action was necessary under the above-mentioned Acts during the year. Form 572 has been completed.

L. W. EVES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

